I REJECT THE
ELF KING'S MISSION.

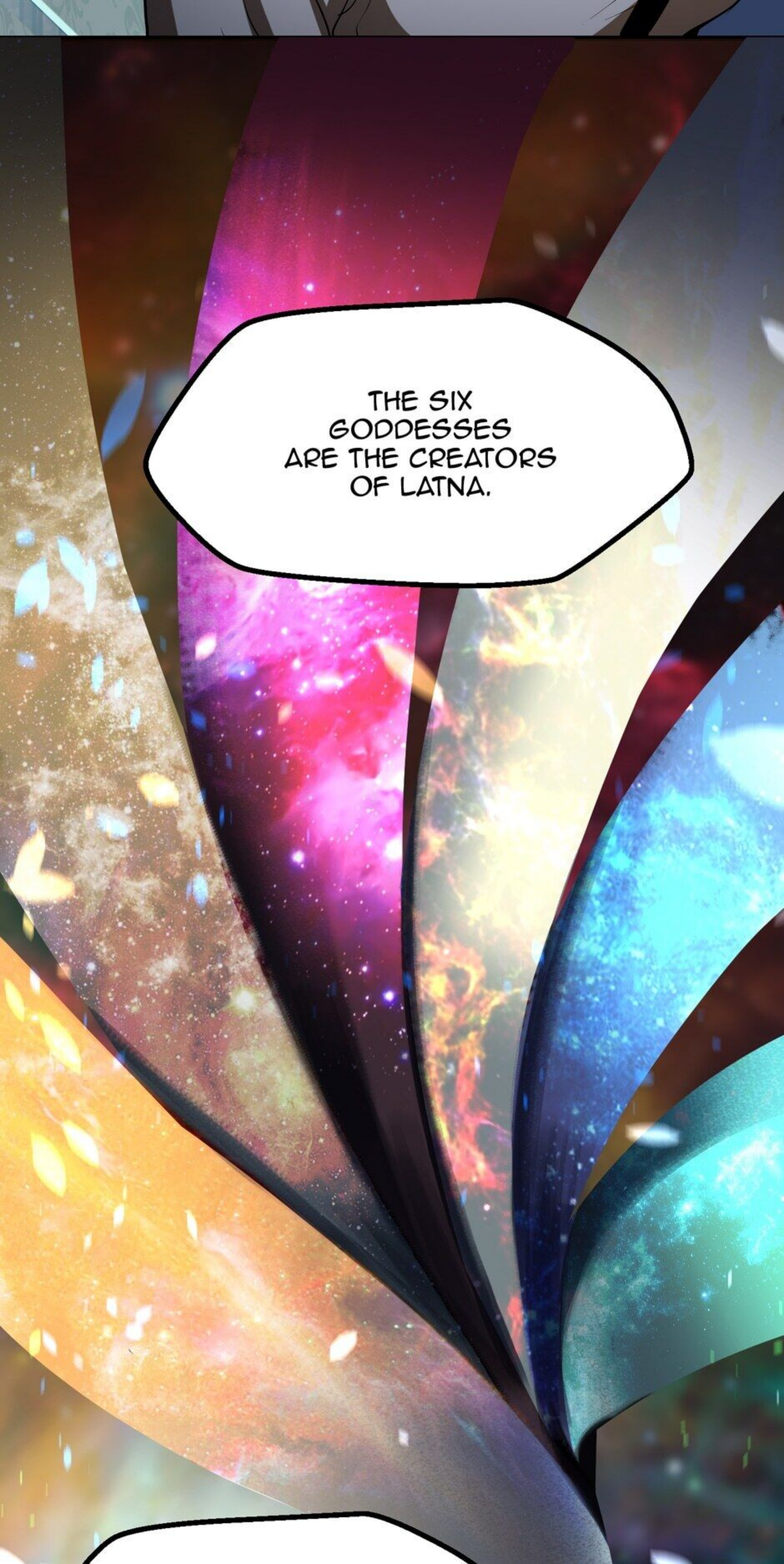
IF WE ALSO TAKE ON HIS MISSION TOMORROW, IT'LL DELAY FULFILLING KIBRIEL'S COMMAND.
AND EVEN IF I TAKE ON THE KING'S MISSION,

RAONDEL
ATLANSAS WILL...

...DIE.

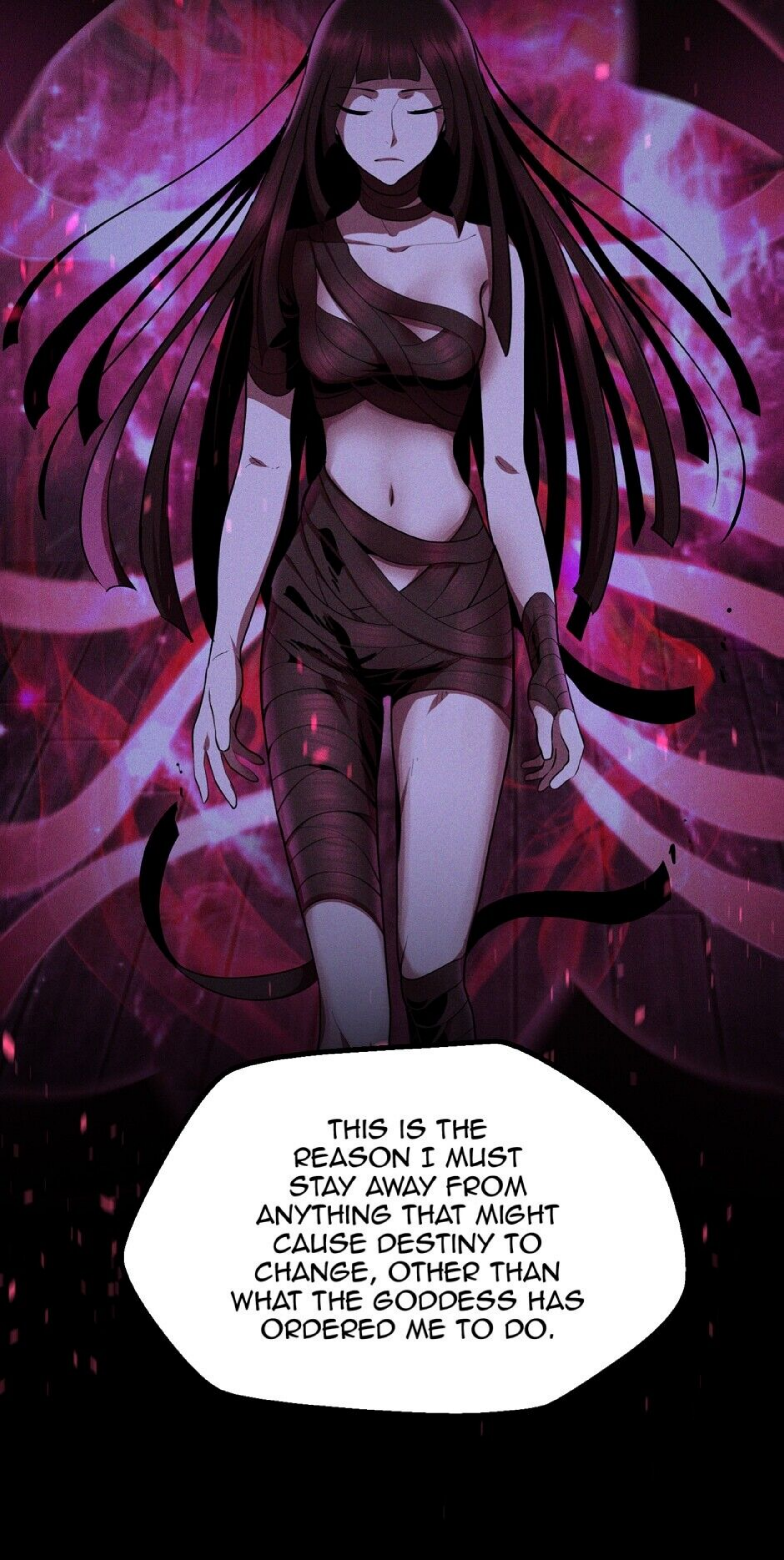
THAT KID'S GONNA DIE? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SAY IT IN A WAY I CAN UNDERSTAND.

TO BE MORE ACCURATE, HE *NEEDS* TO DIE.

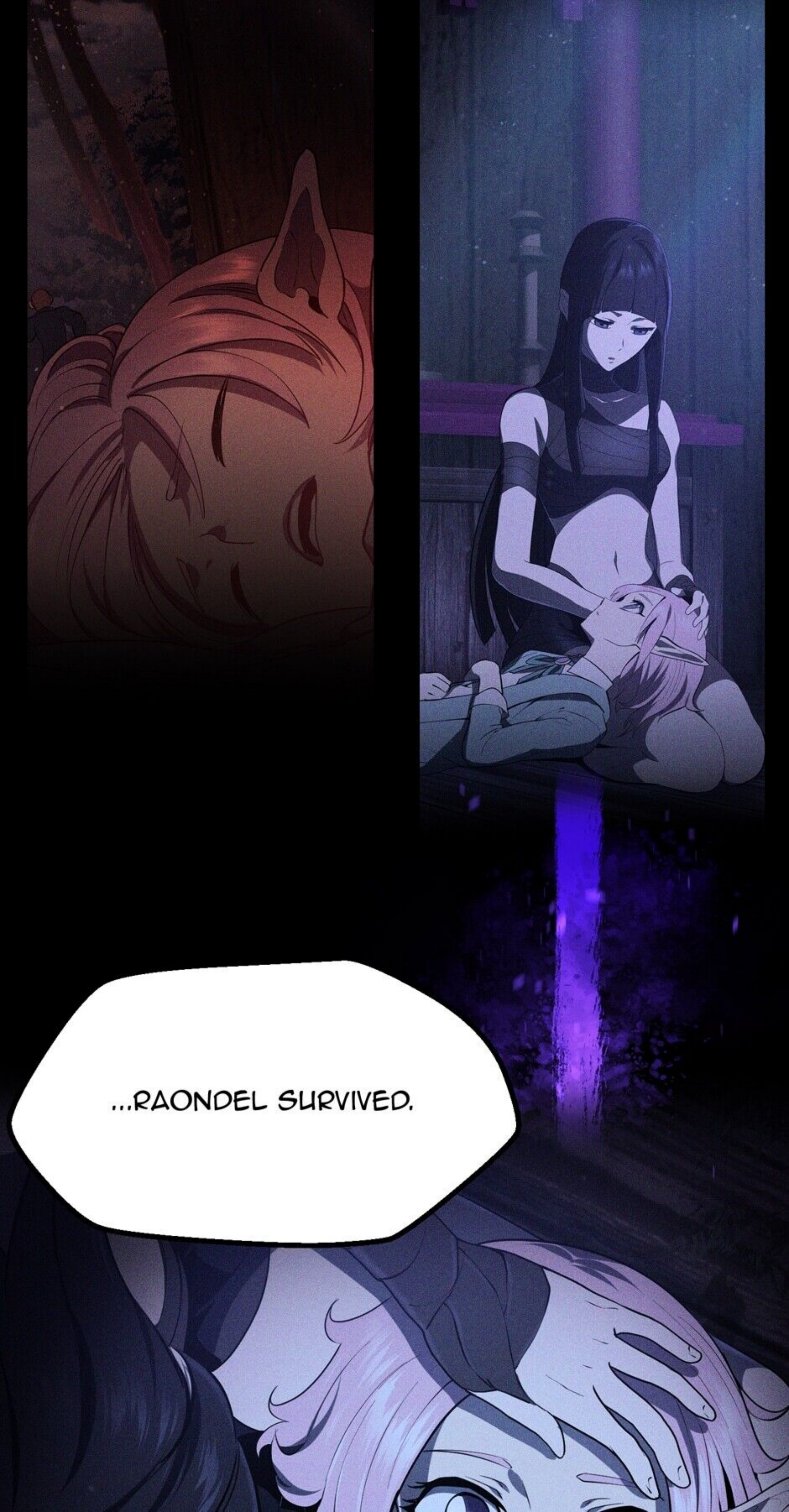

THE SIX GODDESSES ARE THE CREATORS OF LATNA.

THEIR KNOWLEDGE INCLUDES EVERYTHING BEYOND OUR TIME AND SPACE.
BUT EVEN THE GODDESSES, WHO CAN FORESEE LATNA'S FUTURE,
ARE CAREFUL NOT TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES WITH

LATNA'S AFFAIRS.
THEIR CREATION'S FREE WILL AND CAUSALITY CAN NOT BE DISTURBED.
A MERE MESSENGER OF A GODDESS HAS NO FORESIGHT.


THIS IS THE REASON I MUST STAY AWAY FROM ANYTHING THAT MIGHT CAUSE DESTINY TO CHANGE, OTHER THAN WHAT THE GODDESS HAS ORDERED ME TO DO.

THE PROBLEM IS
THAT, BECAUSE OF ME...


...RAONDEL SURVIVED.

HE SHOULD'VE BEEN DEAD ALREADY.

AND YOU'RE LEAVING HIM HERE EVEN AFTER WHAT HAPPENED BECAUSE...

...HIS FATE TO DIE WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED THEN, RIGHT?

THAT KID MIGHT BE RUDE, BUT HE HELPED YOU!
YOU DON'T FEEL ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?

I WAS CREATED TO TAKE BACK THE GODDESS'S FREEDOM, WHICH IS CRUCIAL FOR LATNA'S CONTINUED EXISTENCE.

THE WEIGHT
OF ONE BOY'S LIFE...

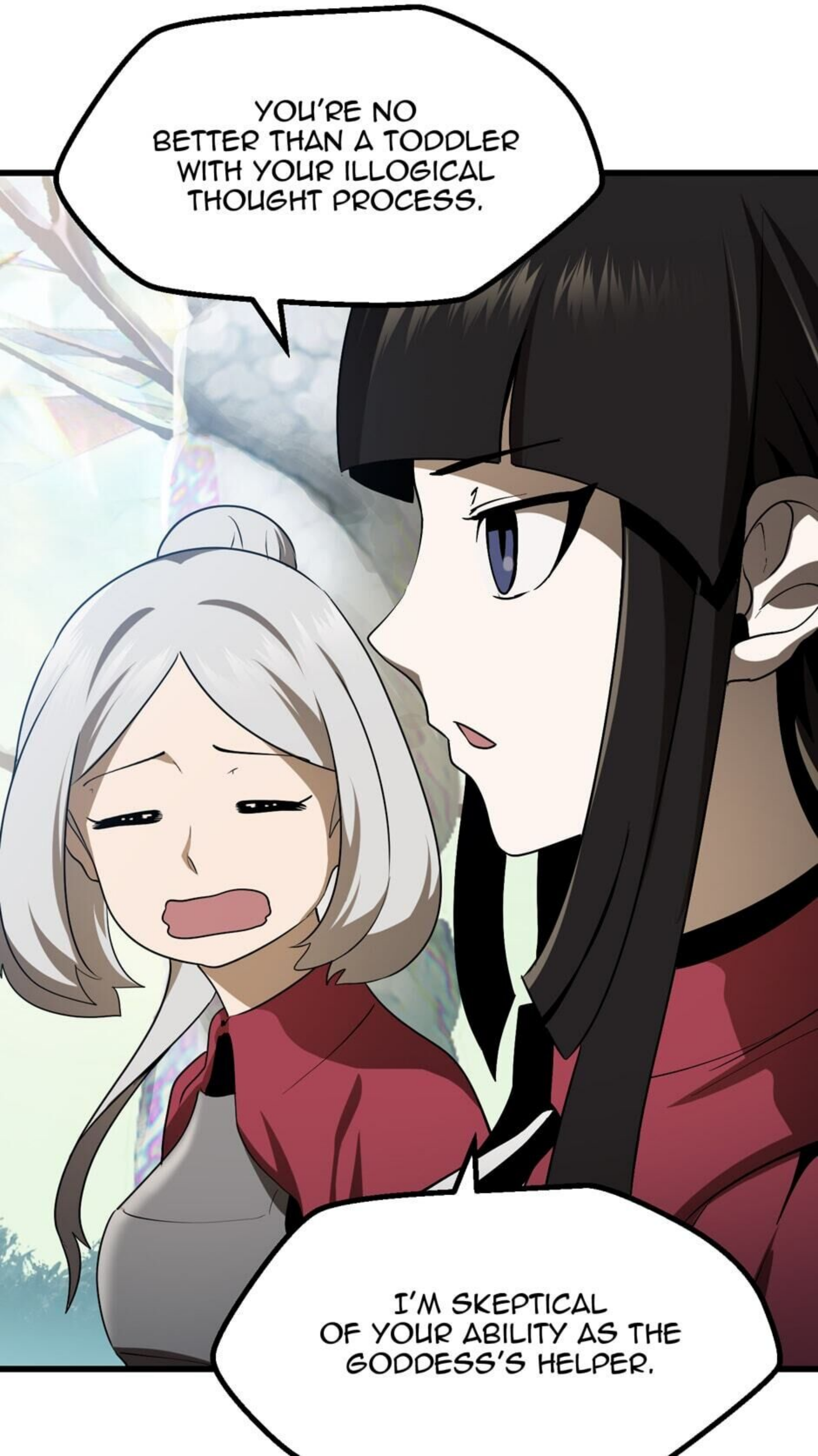
...CANNOT COMPARE TO THAT OF THE FUTURE OF ALL LATNA.

HE IS DESTINED TO DIE.

I BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY QUITE DISLIKE RAONDEL ATLANSAS.

SO WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
JUST BECAUSE.

AND
ACTUALLY, I DON'T
LIKE *YOU.*


YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN A TODDLER WITH YOUR ILLOGICAL THOUGHT PROCESS.
I'M SKEPTICAL OF YOUR ABILITY AS THE GODDESS'S HELPER.

WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE ONE WHO CHOSE ME THEN?

OH, WAIT~
SHE'S LOCKED UP
SOMEWHERE HELPLESSLY,
RIGHT? SORRY~

THE RAONDEL KNIGHTS! I'M PLEASED TO SEE YOU HERE TOGETHER.

I BELIEVE YOU'VE ALREADY HEARD ABOUT THE MUMMIFYING INCIDENT IN THE EASTERN SMALL ROOTS TOWN.
YOUR MISSION IS TO FIND OUT WHAT'S BEEN CAUSING IT.

IT MAY JUST BE A SMALL TOWN FAR FROM HERE,

BUT THE WHOLE TREE WILL DIE EVENTUALLY IF ITS ROOTS ARE ROTTEN.
THIS COULD TURN EVERYTHING UNDER THE WORLD TREE'S SHADE UPSIDE DOWN.

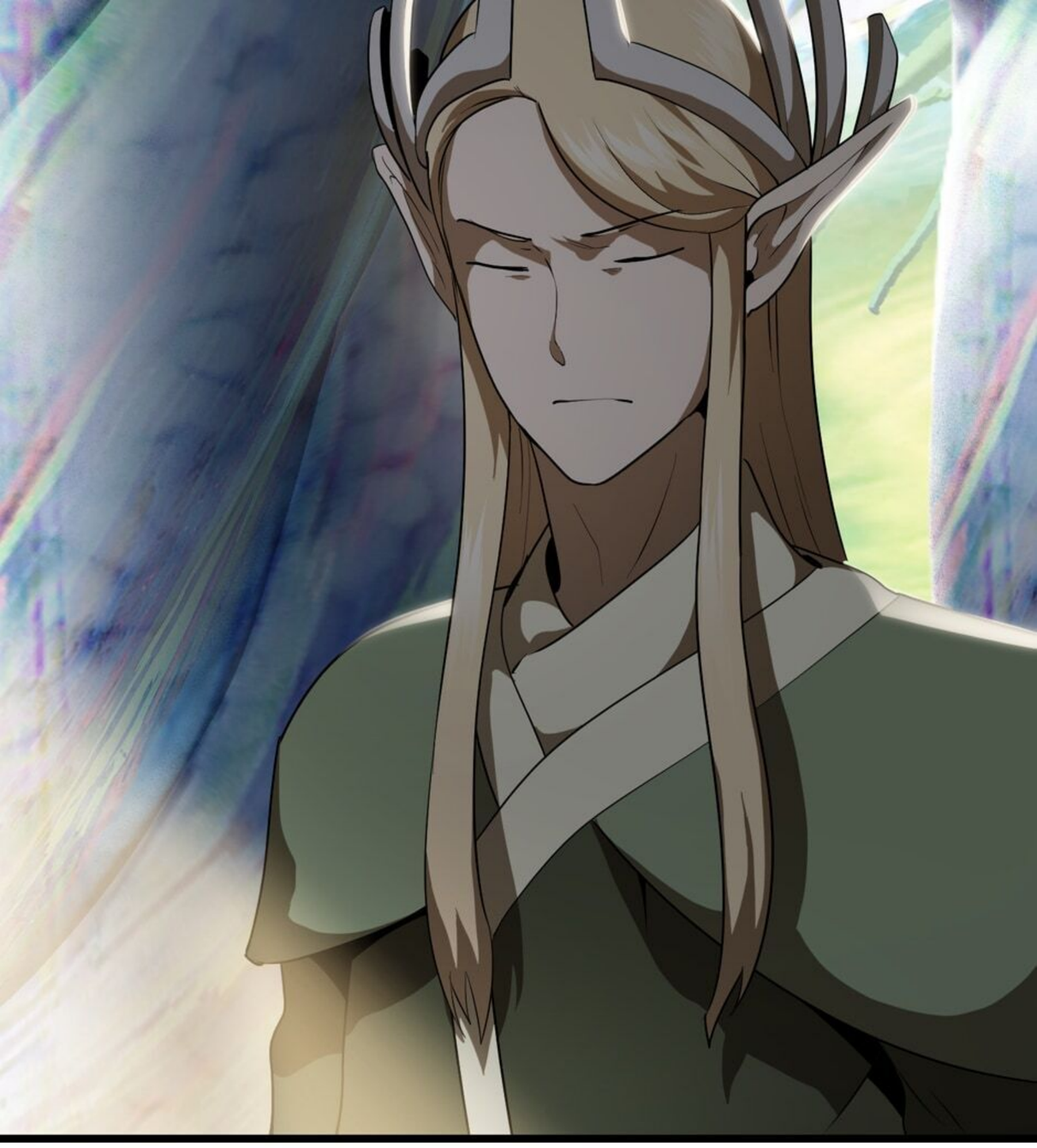
BECAUSE OF THAT, NOT ONLY THE ELVEN KINGDOM,
BUT THE ENTIRE FAIRY ALLIANCE ALSO HAS A HUGE INTEREST IN IT.

ONCE THE MISSION IS COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY,
I'M SURE HOLIEN WILL PERSONALLY COMMEND YOUR WORK AS THE HEAD OF THE FAIRY ALLIANCE.

SO WE GET TO MEET HOLIEN IF WE CLEAR THIS MISSION?

AND RAONDEL... YOUR DUTY IS TO LEAD THIS INVESTIGATION EFFORT WHILE HIDING THE FACT THAT YOU'RE A PRINCE.

YES, FATHER!
I WON'T DISAPPOINT YOU!



LATNA SAGA

SURVIVAL OF A SWORD KING

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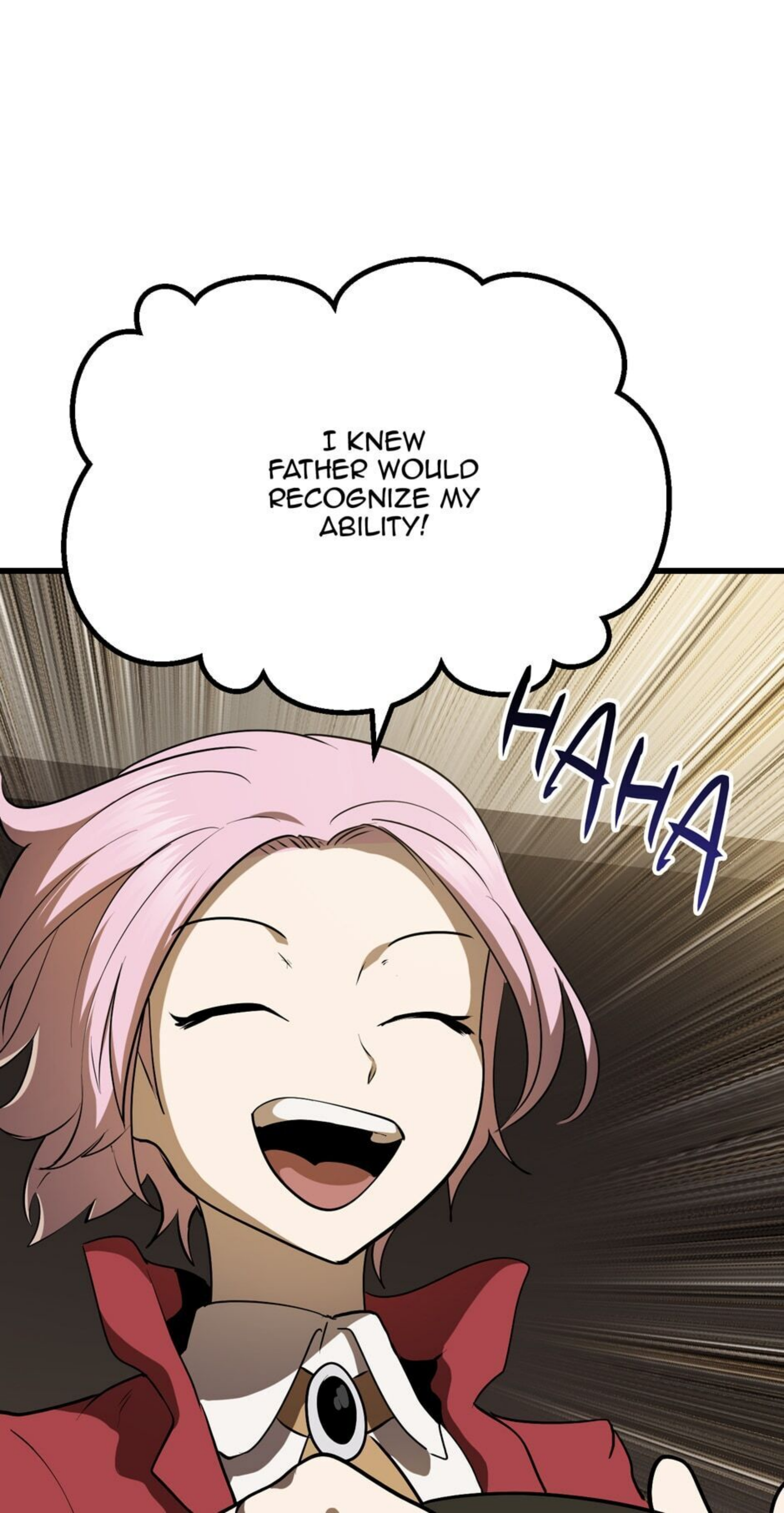
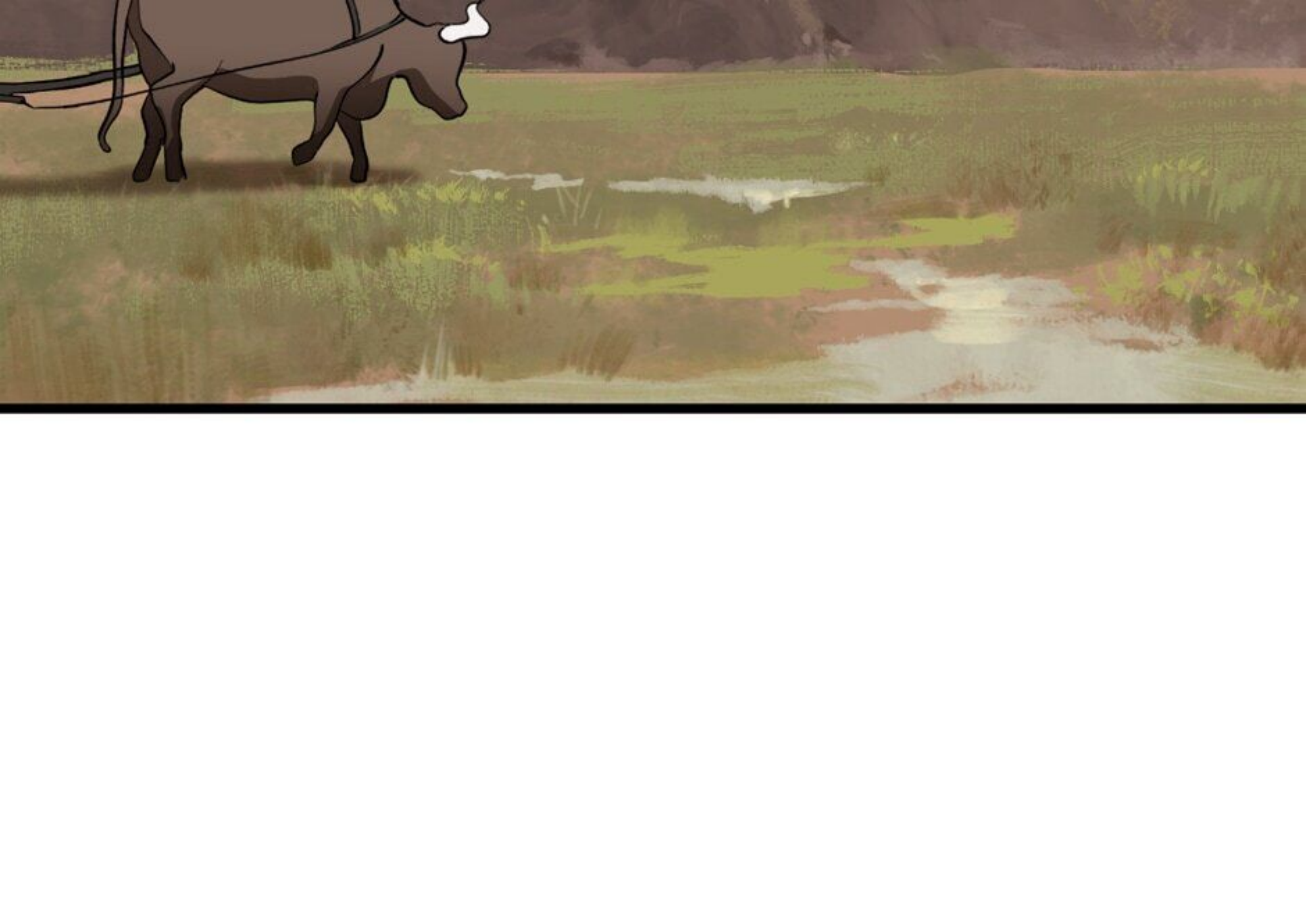
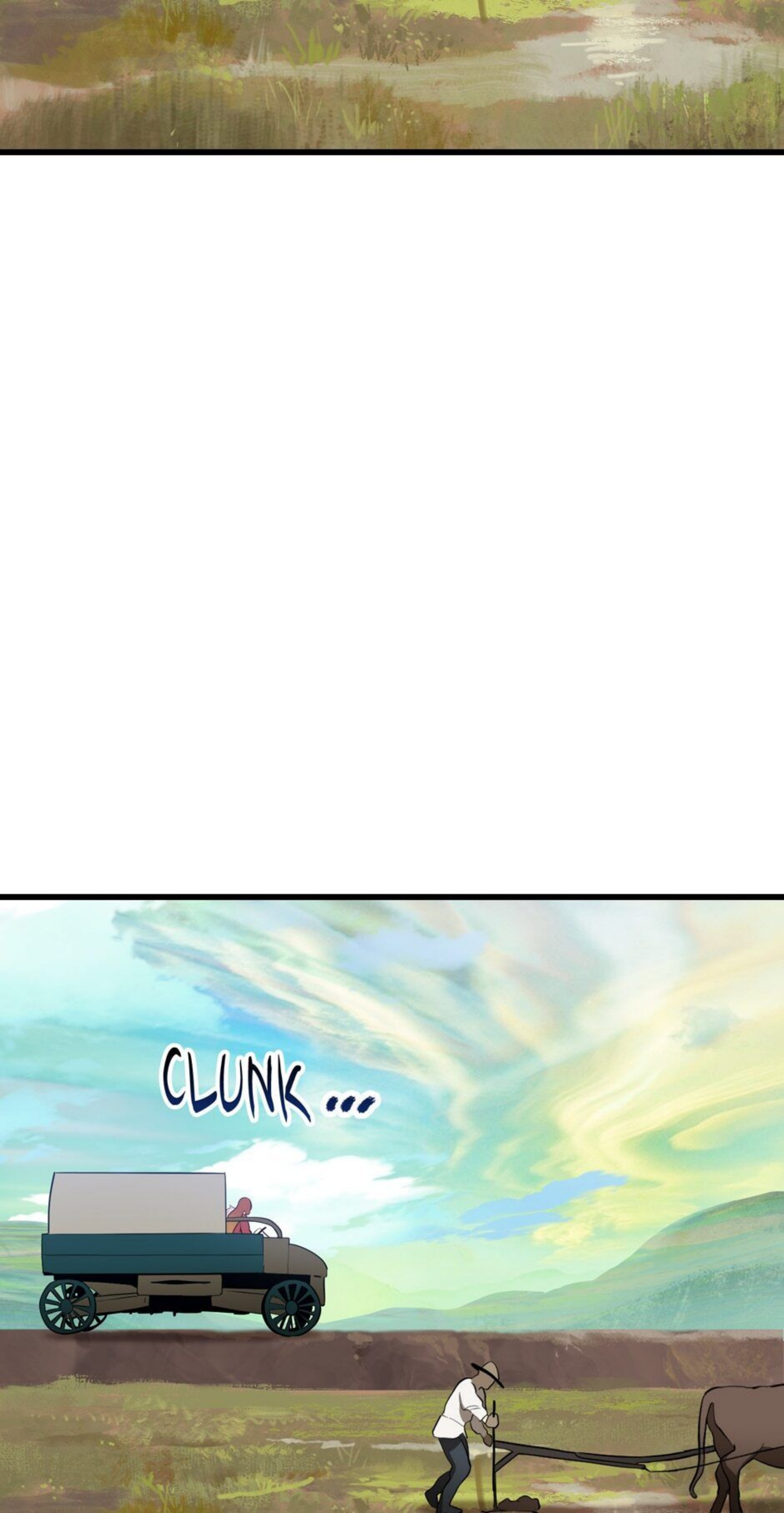

I KNEW FATHER WOULD RECOGNIZE MY ABILITY!
HAHA

WITH ME ON BOARD, THIS PHENOMENON WILL BE SOLVED IN NO TIME!


CLUNK CLUNK~


CLUNK...

WE'RE MOVING SO SLOW!!

THE REST OF US WILL AGE AND DIE AT THIS RATE BEFORE WE ARRIVE! YOU'LL BE THE ONLY ONE STILL ALIVE, PRINCE!

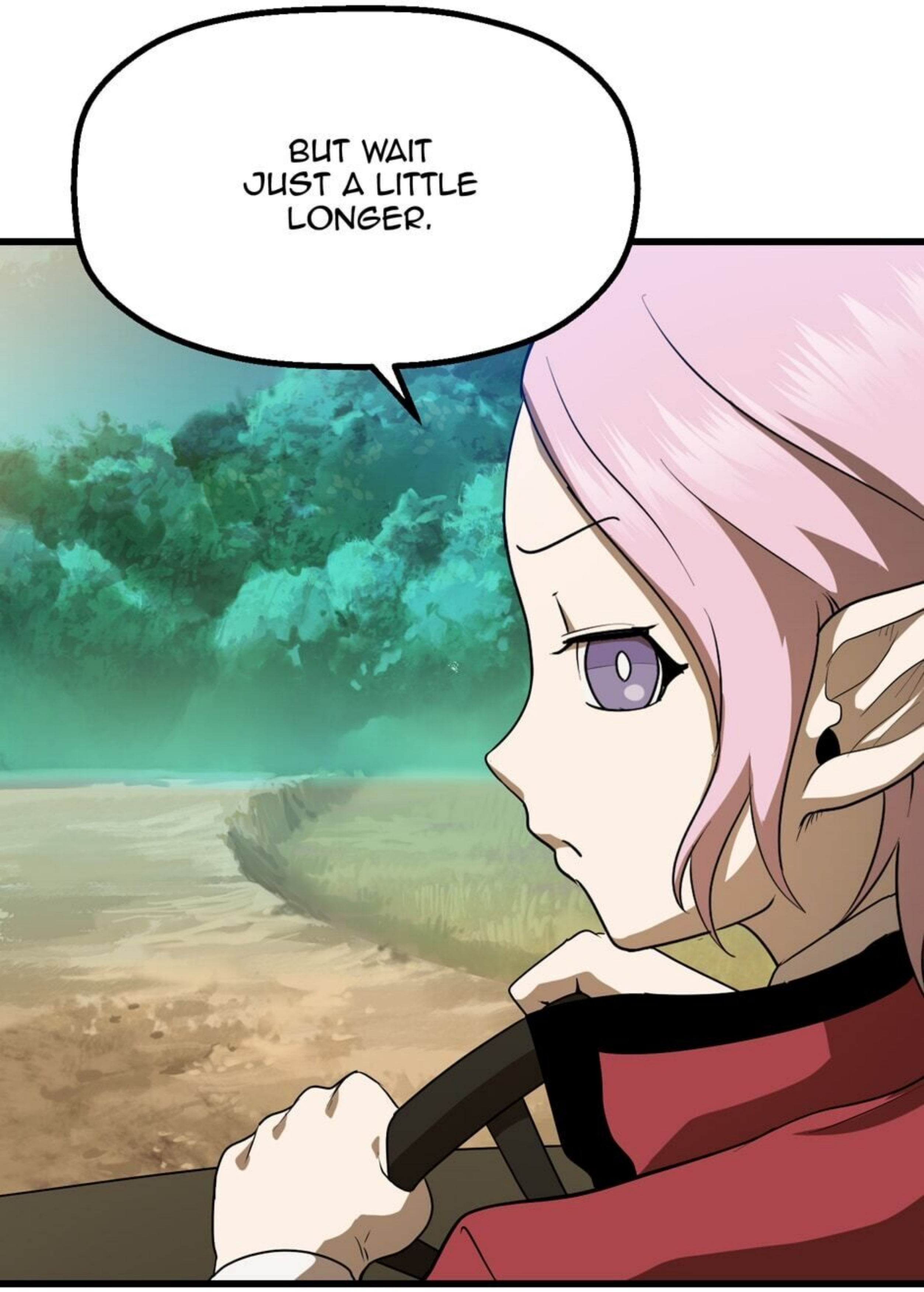
IT'S A SECRET THAT I'M A PRINCE! CALL ME 'CAPTAIN.'

I'M SURE A LITTLE KID LIKE YOU MUST BE VERY EXCITED ABOUT A TRIP LIKE THIS,

BUT YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THAT I'VE VOLUNTEERED TO DRIVE US PERSONALLY.
BUT... IF OUR CAPTAIN GETS TIRED, WHO'LL PROTECT

YOUR PEOPLE? PLEASE ALLOW ME TO DRIVE, CAPTAIN.

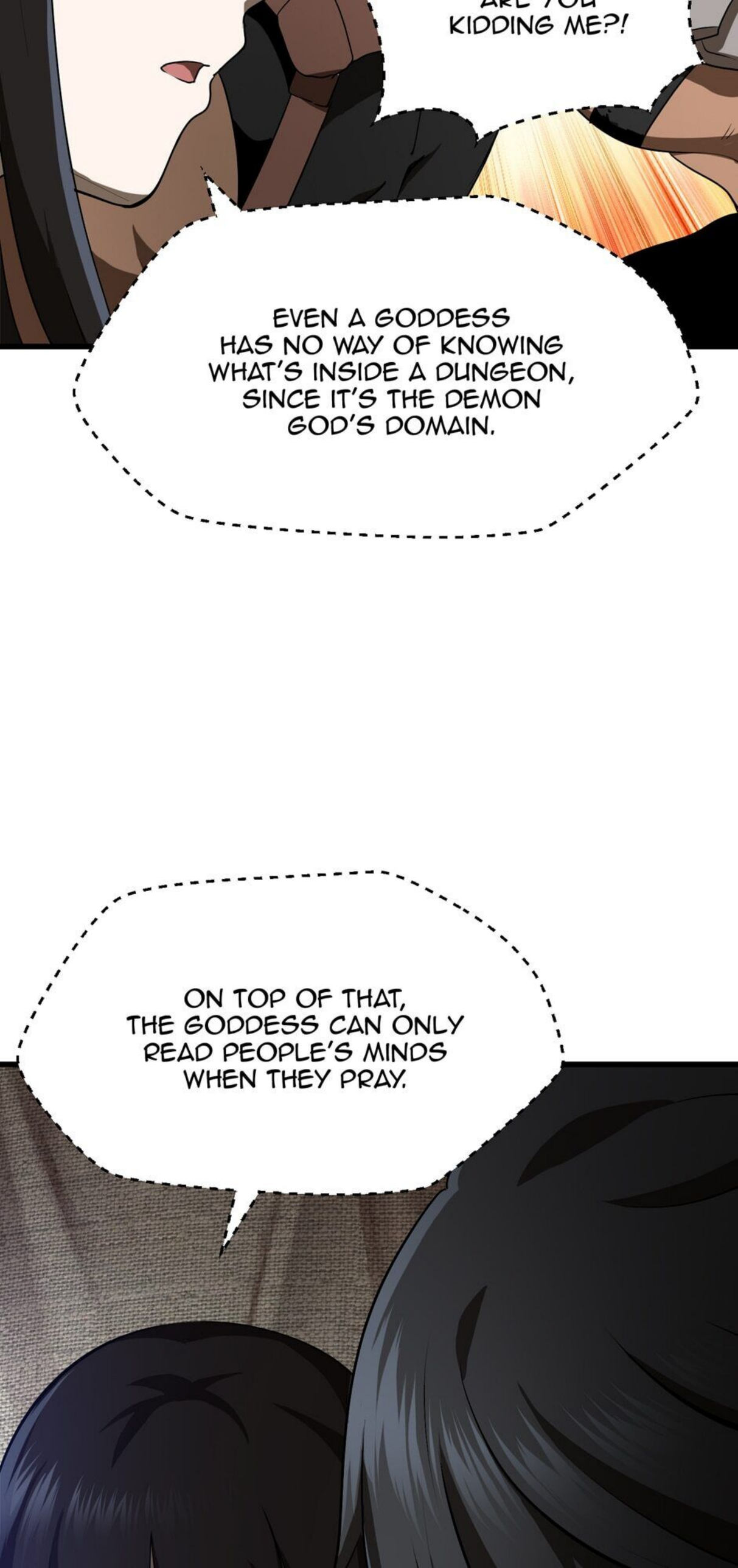
IS THAT RIGHT? AH, COMING FROM A NOBLE FAMILY REALLY DOES MEAN SOMETHING EVEN AMONG HUMANS!


BUT WAIT
JUST A LITTLE
LONGER.

I HAVEN'T HAD
A CHANCE TO SHOW OFF
MY AWESOME DRIVING SKILLS
TO KIBIER YET.

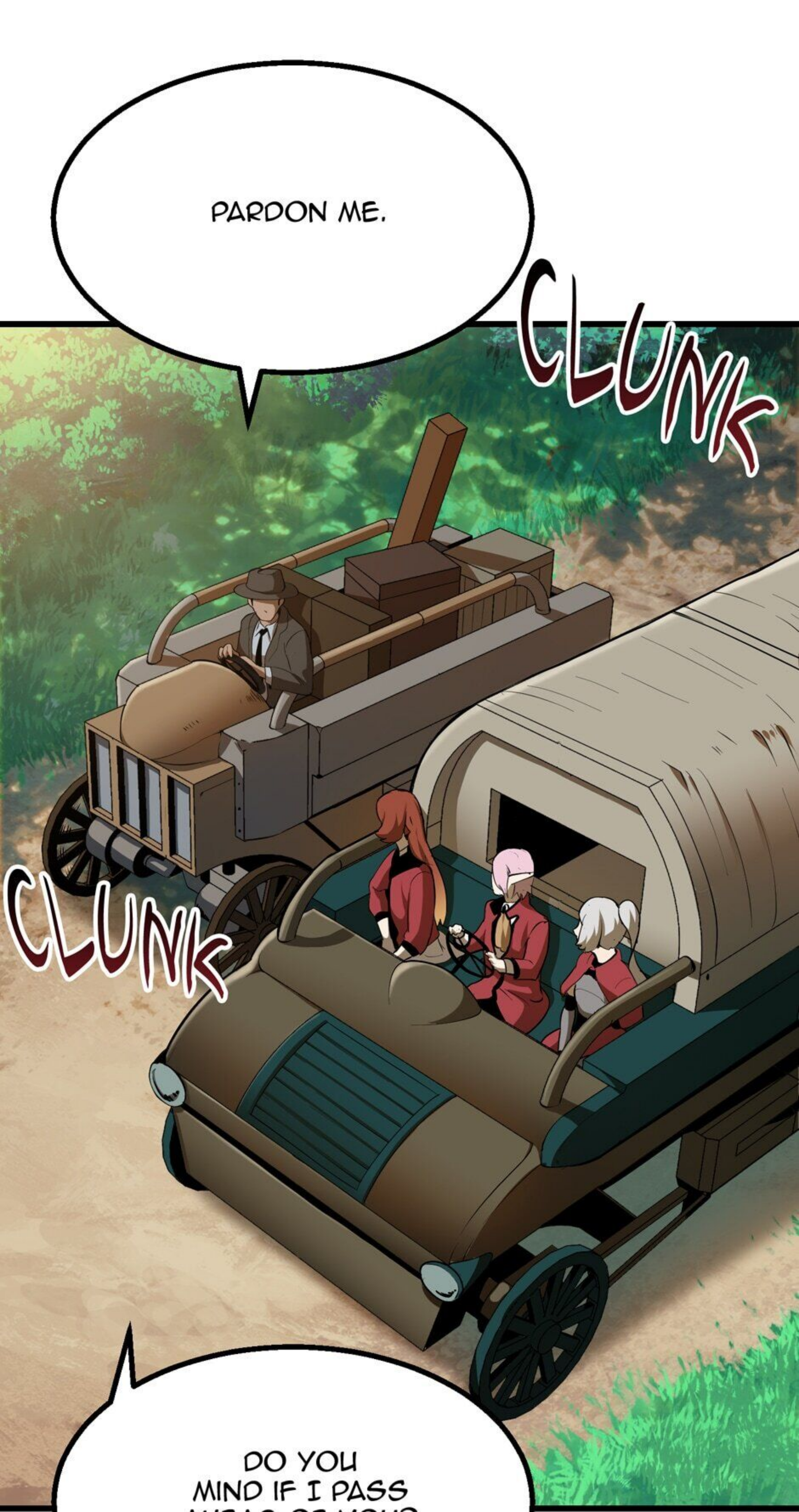
BUT THAT VALTARAN GUY...
IS HE FLIRTING WITH KIBIER WHILE I'M BUSY...?!
GRRR

HOW DARE HE! WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE PAUTAULT IS?!


ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
EVEN A GODDESS HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT'S INSIDE A DUNGEON, SINCE IT'S THE DEMON GOD'S DOMAIN.
ON TOP OF THAT, THE GODDESS CAN ONLY READ PEOPLE'S MINDS WHEN THEY PRAY.

THERE'S NO RECORD OF PAUTAULT EVER PRAYING, ACCORDING TO MY INFORMATION.
WE MUST FIND HIM BY ASKING AROUND.

YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD ME THAT FIRST!
CLUNK
CLUNK
I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU THAT THERE'S NO REASON TO TAKE ON THE ELF'S MISSION.
HAA... I GUESS WE'D BETTER FINISH THIS MISSION FAST.


PARDON ME.
CLUNK
CLUNK
DO YOU MIND IF I PASS

AHEAD OF YOU?

I MUST GET TO THE SMALL ROOTS TOWN IN THE EAST BEFORE THE SUN SETS.

SK

WE'RE ACTUALLY ON OUR WAY THERE TOO, BUT... YOU CAN GO AHEAD.

THEN I SUGGEST YOU LEAVE THIS FOREST BEFORE THE SUN GOES DOWN.

I HEARD STRANGE THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING AROUND HERE AT NIGHT.

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
CLUNK
CLUNK
CLUNK

WE'RE RATHER FORTUNATE, ACTUALLY.

WE WON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT GETTING LOST AS LONG AS WE FOLLOW THAT WAGON!

CLENCH
A MERE HUMAN...!
HOW DARE HE COMMAND WHERE I SHOULD GO?!

ドクン
ドクドク

SHWOOO

WAIT!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

WHOOSH
CRACK

PLUNK

CLUNK
CLUNK
WHAT HAPPENED?! ARE WE UNDER ATTACK?

CLUNK
CLUNK
HAHAHA! WHEREVER I GO BECOMES A PATH FOR THE REST!

THE GODDESS OF THE EARTH GUIDES ME! THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR!

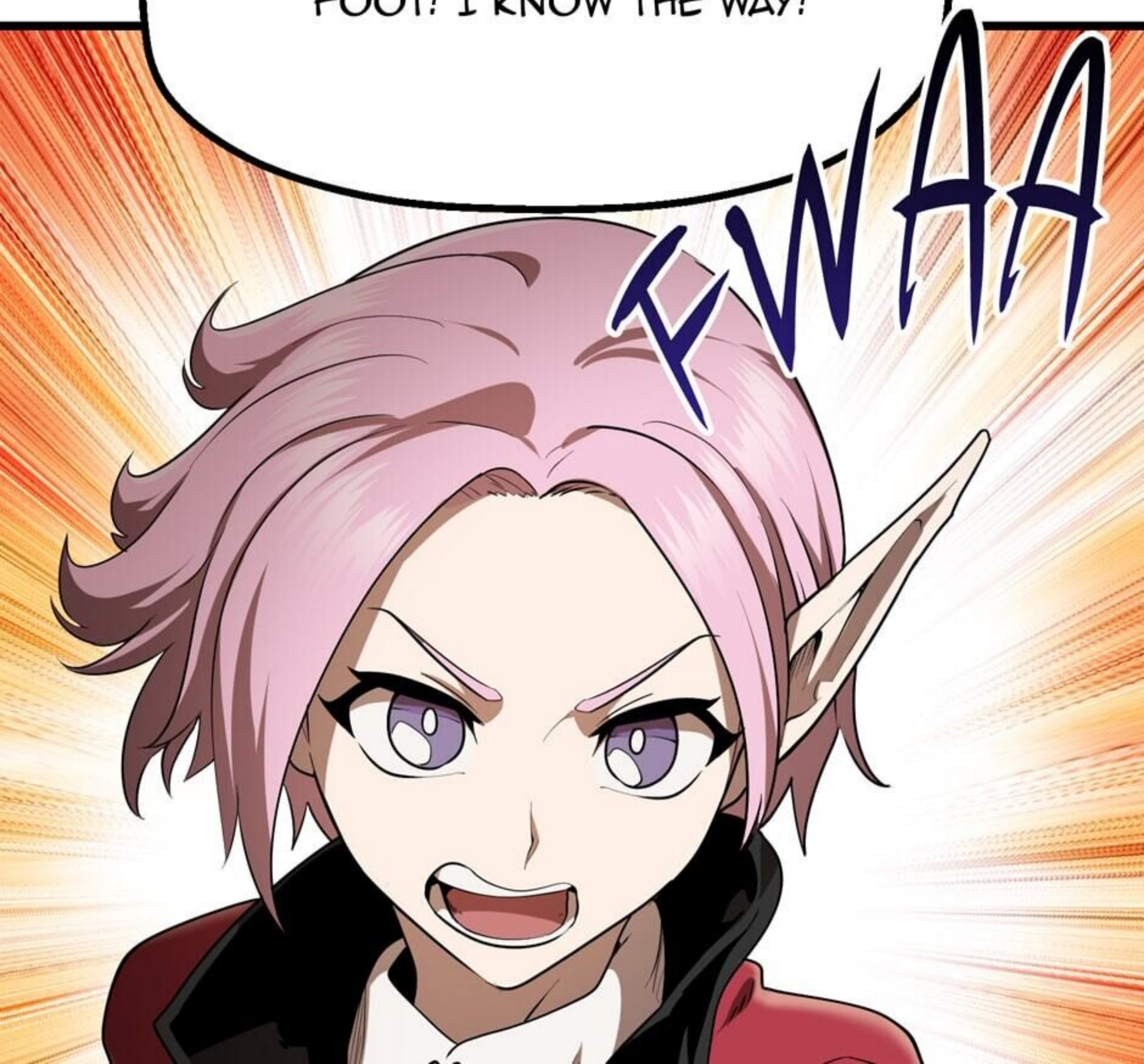
FWOOM
CRACKLE

CRACKLE

OY, CAPTAIN?

TH-THIS
IS ALL A PART
OF THE GODDESS'S
PLAN...

WE CAN GO ON
FOOT! I KNOW THE WAY!



YOU THERE, SAVAGE! CARRY ME ON YOUR—

HOW STRANGE... I CAN HEAR RAONDEL'S VOICE, BUT ***HE WAS KILLED IN A FREAK CAR ACCIDENT!***

ゾッ

NO WAY~ YOU'RE HEARING THINGS.
AH, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I LAST STROLLED AROUND THIS FOREST.

THIS WAY! HERE!

SLOW DOWN!

WHAT MAKES HIM SO CONFIDENT?
HE'S THE SON OF THE ELF KING.

THE ELF ROYAL FAMILY HAS BEEN CONTROLLING THE WORLD TREE'S ROOTS FOR GENERATIONS.

WITH THAT POWER, THEY CAN CREATE A 'GIFT' FROM THE WORLD TREE ONCE EVERY TWENTY YEARS.

WOW, SO THIS SWORD IS PRETTY VALUABLE THEN! CAN RAONDEL ALSO—

HE'S TOO YOUNG TO BE AS SKILLED AS HIS FATHER.

BUT HE CAN SENSE THE WORLD TREE'S ROOTS SPREAD NEAR THE SURFACE.

HE'S DEFINITELY GOT THE ELF ROYAL BLOOD, BUT...

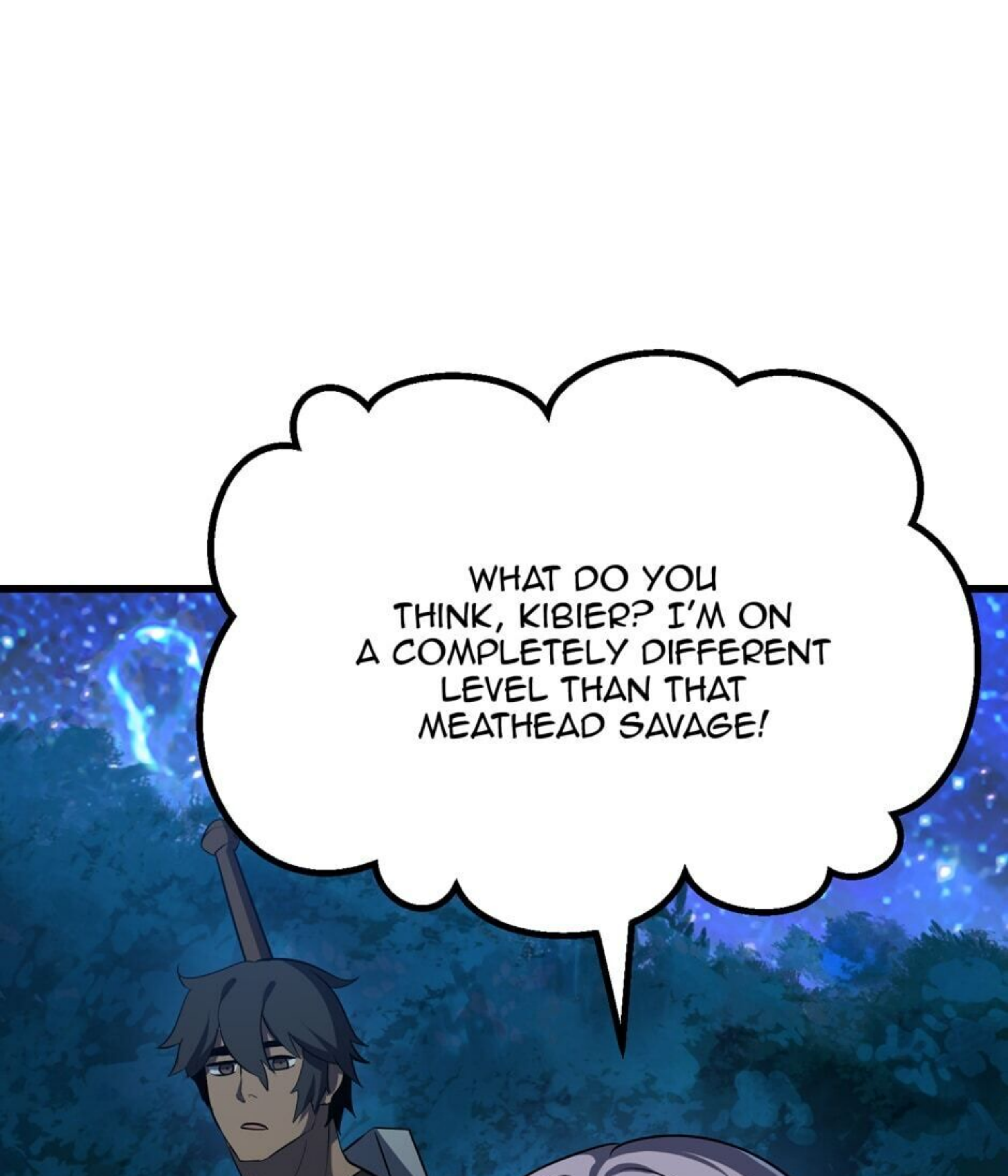
BUT...?

COME THIS WAY!

I'VE LOCATED
THE WAGON THAT PASSED
US EARLIER!

WHAT DID I SAY? DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO TRUST ME?

WOW, CAPTAIN~ YOU'RE MORE USEFUL THAN I THOUGHT!
'THAN YOU THOUGHT'? HOW DARE YOU?!


WHAT DO YOU THINK, KIBIER? I'M ON A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LEVEL THAN THAT MEATHEAD SAVAGE!

WHY ARE YOU BRINGING ME UP...?

WE JUST HAVE TO ASK THAT WAGON'S OWNER TO TAKE US TO THE TOWN!

I THINK THAT MAY BE...

SK
...DIFFICULT.

RED DOG
CULTURE HOUSE